

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 09265 211833Z
ACTION EUR-03

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJ: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

REF: STATE 303010

1. RE PARAGRAPH 2 OF REF, PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO INFLUENCE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL DEAL WITH ANY DECISION ON PRESS HANDLING OF THE WHEELCHAIR IN THE DIRECTION OF SIMPLY DELIVERING THE CHAIR TO THE EMBASSY AND LEAVING IT HERE FOR SUBSEQUENT PRESENTATION TO MR. FRELAK. THERE IS NO TIME IN THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE TO ARRANGE A PRESENTATION AND, EVEN: IF THERE WERE, THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE STRONG OBJECTIONS TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT HE MIGHT DO THIS. IN THE FIRST PLACE (AND QUITE EXTRANEUOUS TO THE IDEOLOGICAL COLORATION OF THIS POLISH REGIME), THERE WOULD BE A STRONG ELEMENT OF RESENTMENT AT WHAT THEY COULD NOT FAIL TO INTERPRET AS AN EFFORT BY THE AMERICANS TO SHOW THEM UP FOR THEIR SHABBY TREATMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED. IT IS QUITE TRUE THAT THAT TREATMENT IS SHABBY, BUT IT IS EGALITARIANLY SHABBY: ALL HANDICAPPED PEOPLE ARE TREATED EQUALLY SHABBILY. (MR. FRELAK IS JUST MORE ENTERPRISING THAN OTHER HANDICAPPED PEOPLE HERE.) IN THE SECOND PLACE, THERE WOULD BE ADDITIONAL RESENTMENT AT WHAT WOULD BE

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REGARDED AS AN AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT POLAND'S BACKWARDNESS (THEY DON'T MANUFACTURE MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS HERE) AND TO PUBLICIZE AMERICAN CHARITABLENESS.

2. ONCE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IS OVER, WE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE A SUITABLE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, FROM WHICH BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND EVERST & JENNINGS WILL GET THE RIGHT

KIND OF COVERAGE, WITHOUT RUBBING IT ON THE POLES.
WHILE THE PRESIDENT IS HERE, WE WILL TRY TO GET AN AUTO-
GRAPHED PICTURE OF HIM AND A SIGNED LETTER FROM HIM TO
MR. FRELAK. WE WILL GET APPROPRIATE LETTERS OF THANKS
FROM MR. FRELAK TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO MR. JENNINGS,
TOGETHER WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF MR. FRELAK IN THE CHAIR.
WE WILL SEND THESE BACK AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE FOR POST-
TRIP PUBLICIZATION.
DAVIES

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